

HO-36

Oak Hall, site
Oak Hall Lane
Columbia
Savage Quad

House and outbuildings demolished November 1985

HO-36
OAK HALL
Columbia
Private

1809
CC

Oak Hall as sister house to Waveland, which is the residence of the owners of Sewell's Orchards, is highly significant to the history of Howard County. Built by Richard Dorsey, brother of Larkin who built Waveland, it has been owned and occupied continuously by the Dorsey family and was once located on the same tract of land on which the site of Elkhorn, a 1732 Dorsey residence, is found.

Richard built his house of brick in five bays with central entrance and hall as did brother Larkin at Waveland but enlarged the depth to two rooms rather than one on the south side of the central hall, including the hall, leaving the north side of the house one room deep. It may well be he intended to add an additional room at a later date for he put a shed roof on this side of the house which appears as a gable roof from the west elevation perfectly in balance with the south side. A wide north brick chimney with corbeled edge rising to meet in height, width and depth the wide south brick chimney which is its twin adds to this total effect. Both chimneys run north-south along the apex of the gable roof.

A flat roof portico supported by four square wooden posts and two pilasters connected by a wooden diamond motif railing covers the central rectangular west entrance which is surmounted by a four lite transom.

Another similar, but smaller one story high portico, featuring a gable roof, covers the east entrance door of the central hall, which runs the depth of the building.

In perfect condition and lovingly cared for by Mr. and Mrs. William Dorsey, Oak Hall remains one of Howard County's most valuable landmarks.

1400365304

H0-36
District 6

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON:					
Oak Hall					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
6899 Oakland Mills Road (Now on Oak Hall Lane)					
CITY OR TOWN:					
Columbia					
STATE			COUNTY:		
Maryland			Howard		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	
		Public Acquisition:		Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME:					
Mr. & Mrs. William Dorsey					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
6899 Oakland Mills Road					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Columbia			Maryland		21045
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:					
Hall of Records					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
Howard County Courthouse					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Ellicott City			Maryland		21043
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): See Tax Map 36&42					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS w/r 17/175 p. 284 11.0 acres					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
Howard County Historic Sites Inventory					
DATE OF SURVEY: 1977 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
Maryland Historical Trust					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
21 State Circle					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Annapolis			Maryland		21401

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncolored		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Oak Hall is a five bay wide, two bay deep, two and a half story brick structure facing west with twin gabled roof dormers set into its gabled roof which runs north-south and becomes one bay deep with a shed roof on the two north bays of the house. Along the apex of the gabled roof line and on the east wall of the shed roof north wing sit wide twin brick chimneys with corbeled edges which run north-south. An additional square brick chimney lies along the center of the south wall.

The central west rectangular entrance surmounted by a four lite transom is covered by a flat roof portico supported by four square wooden posts and two pilasters connected by a wooden diamond motif railing approached by brick steps. Cellar windows lie under the first floor windows of the front elevation.

A hipped roof one story frame addition, used as a sitting room and kitchen, lies along the entire south wall and holds two rectangular entrances covered by gabled roofs and approached by wooden stairs and railings. Six lite full basement rectangular windows lie under the four rectangular first floor double hung windows which hold two-over-two lites. The south wall of the original brick house holds two vertically aligned and proportionally scaled second and third floor rectangular double-hung windows holding six-over-six lites. Stretcher brick flat arched lintels decorate all the windows of the brick house.

Fenestration for the main brick house is proportionally scaled and vertically aligned. Windows are rectangular and double-hung, holding six-over-nine lights on the first floor and six-over-six lights on the second floor.

The east entrance of the central hall, which runs the length of the building, is covered by a one story high, gabled roof portico, which other than its gable roof and smaller scale, is similar to the flat roofed portico covering the central west entrance of the building.

An interesting two story high, square brick tower, covered by a tent roof and featuring a gabled roof bell tower was once used as a carriage house. One story frame additions on the north and east accomodated carriages and were later used as a dairy. The coach man at one time lived on the second floor of the brick tower.

A large frame barn lies south of the house. The property, which lies opposite Christ Episcopal Church, is now surrounded by The Seiling Industrial Park, with Columbia residential areas on the north and west.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

2. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1809

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal

☐ Education

☐ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Phi-

☐ Other (Specify)

☒ Historic

☐ Industry

☐ Philosophy

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Science

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Sculpture

☐ Art

☐ Architecture

☐ Social/Human-

☐ Commerce

☐ Literature

☐ Italian

☐ Communications

☐ Military

☐ Theater

☐ Conservation

☐ Music

☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oak Hall

Oak Hall lies on a tract of land which once belonged to John Dorsey who built Elkhorn Farm in 1732. Wild Caleb Dorsey acquired the property in 1765 and passed the land and homestead to his son John who lived at Elkhorn. It was this Caleb Dorsey and his son John that gave the land on which the Old Brick Church was built.

John's brothers, Larkin and Richard settled near him and built homes. Larkin built Waveland sometime between 1790 and 1809 and Richard built Oak Hall in 1809. Both homes are of brick, five bays wide with a central hall. Larkin built his home one room deep, while Richard at Oak Hall thought in more grandiose terms and began his home more grandly with a two bay, two room wide, south side and hall and a one room deep north side on which he put a shed roof, probably meaning to add to it in the future and complete it. This was never done.

Inherited by Larkin Dorsey, a bachelor who died in 1882, Oak Hall was sold to Mr. John Sieling. It passed from him to his son Henry. In 1969, it came back to the Dorseys, inherited by Mr. William Dorsey, present owner.

Built by the Dorsey family, Oak Hall is a major historical site which has been designated as a critical area of state concern suitable for pre-servation. It is surrounded by the new city, Columbia and immediately by the New Post Office complex and industrial park. It is thus subject to the impact of further development and should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places and included in any future local landmark legislation.

NOTE: Big Uncle Dick and Big Uncle Lark

Big Uncle Dick and Big Uncle Lark refer to Richard Dorsey, who built Oak Hall and his brother Larkin Dorsey who built Waveland.

Larkin Dorsey, a bachelor who died in 1882 and inherited Oak Hall is not to be confused with Big Uncle Lark. Larkin Dorsey, the bachelor was the nephew of both Big Uncle Dick and Big Uncle Lark.

The John Seiling, who bought Oak Hall, had a daughter Elise, who married Hammond Dorsey III, great great nephew of Richard Dorsey who built Oak Hall. Mr. William Dorsey, who inherited Oak Hall, was the son of Hammond Dorsey III and Elise Seiling Dorsey.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Warfield, J.D. Founders of Ann Arundel and Howard County, Maryland. Baltimore 1972.
Interview with Mr. & Mrs. William Dorsey, owners of Oak Hall at Oak Hall Feb. 9, 1977.
Interview with Dr. Caleb Dorsey, local historian and 25th Caleb Dorsey
Interview with Mrs. Brownley, whose father was born at Mount Hebron, grandson of Thomas Beale Dorsey

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Please see Tax Maps 36 and 42
w/r 17/175 p. 284 11.0 acres

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Cleora B. Thompson, Archivist		
ORGANIZATION Comprehensive Planning Section	DATE	
STREET AND NUMBER: 3450 Courthouse Drive		
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City	STATE Maryland	21043

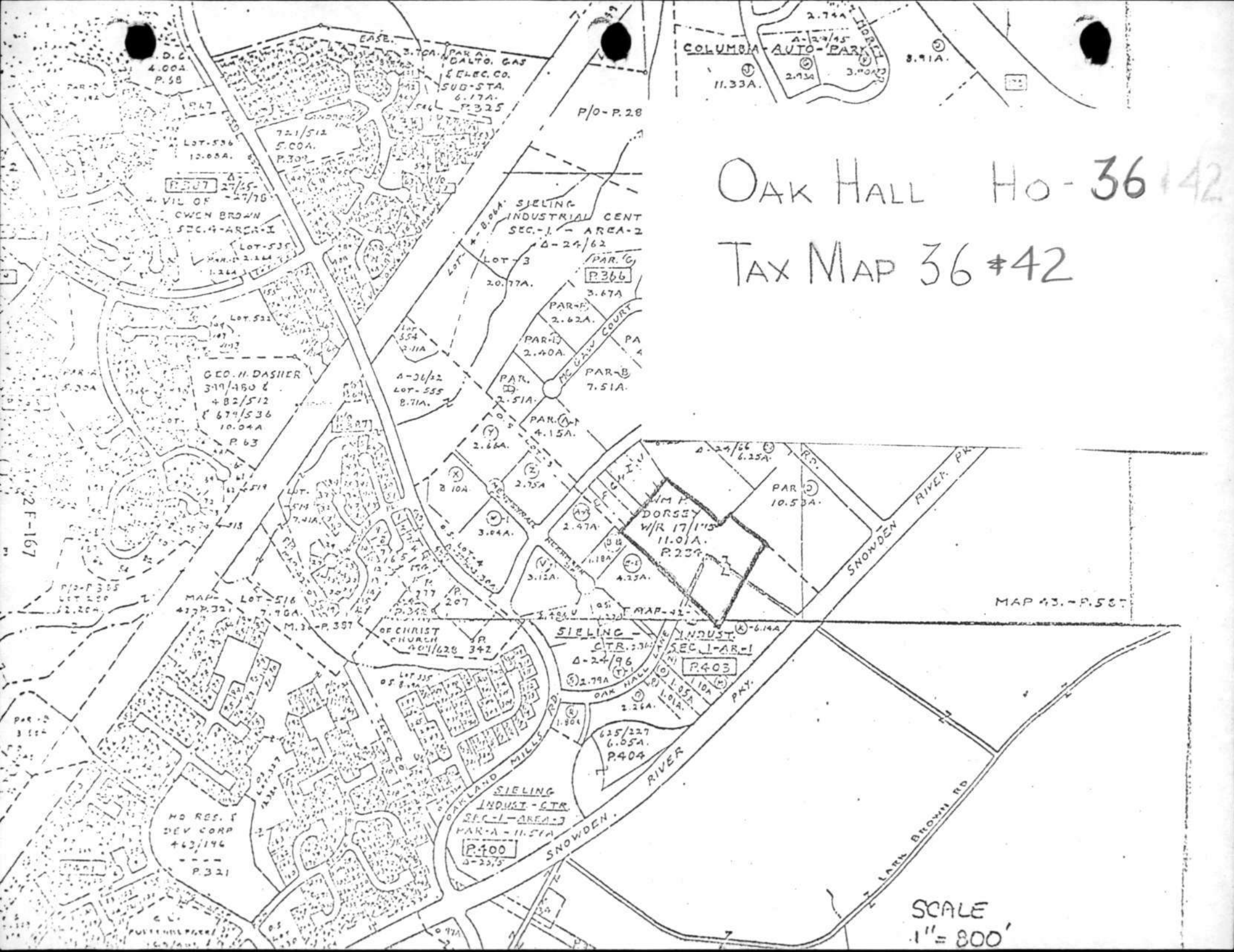
12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



OAK HALL Ho-36

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
MAP-ELLCOTT CITY, MD. QUAD



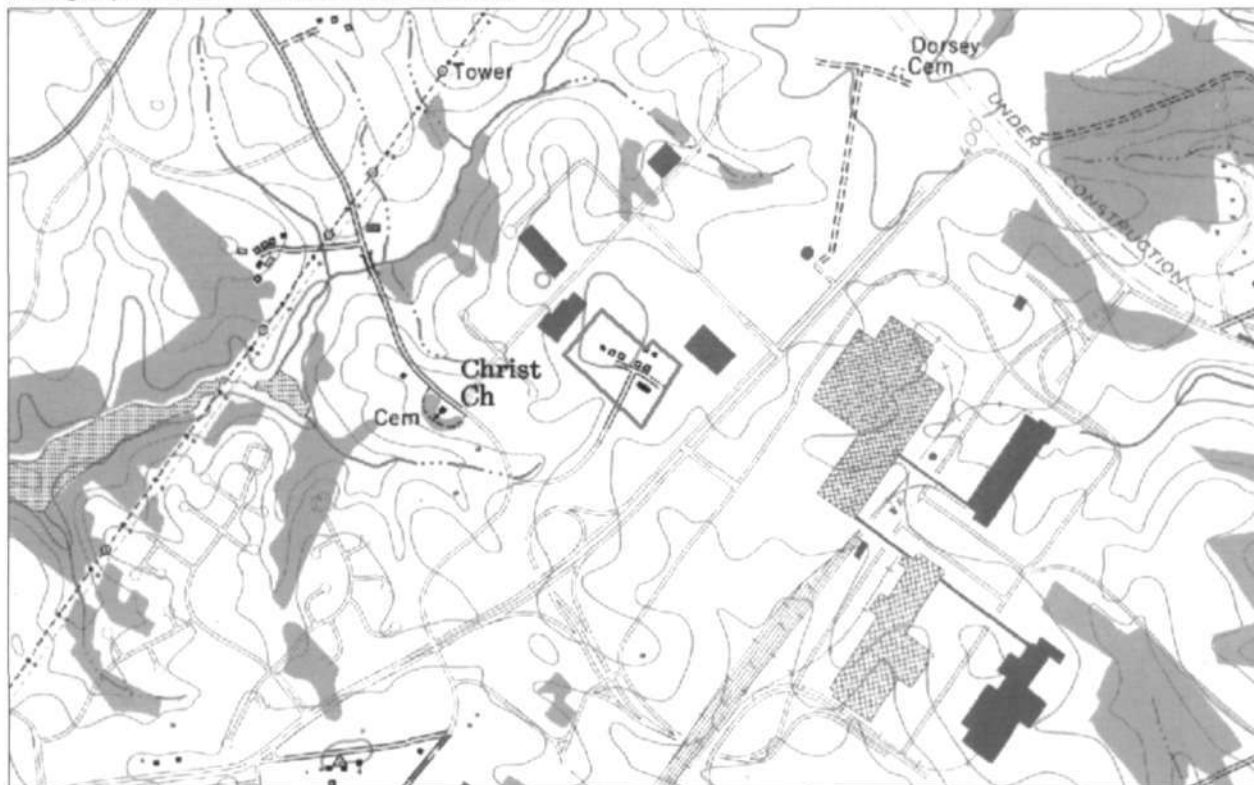
HO-36
Oak Hall, site
Oak Hall Lane, Columbia
Howard County Historic Aerials, 1984

DEMOLISHED 1985



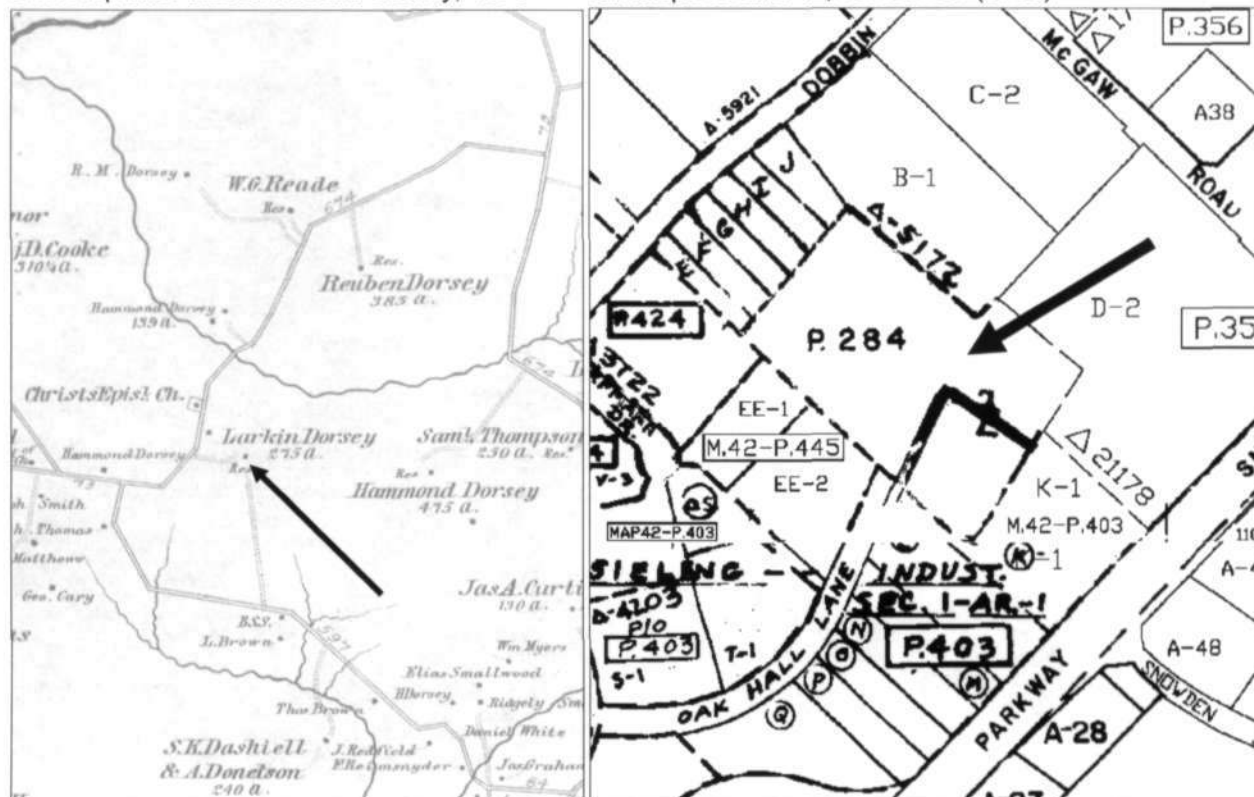
HO-36
 Oak Hall, site
 Oak Hall Lane, Columbia
 Savage quad 1957, Photorevised 1966 and 1974

DEMOLISHED 1985



G.M. Hopkins Atlas of Howard County, 1878

Tax Maps 36 and 42, Parcel 284 (of 36)





HO-36
OAK HALL
(WEST) FEB. 1977

CLEORA BARNES THOMPSON
PLANNING CONSULTANT
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



40 36

9330

Oak Hall

BE Apr 72



HO-36

9330

Sgt Apr 72

Barn at Oak Hall



40-36

9330

282 Apr 72

Milk house at Oak Hall



HO-36

9330

See April 72

Servants house at Oak Hall



HO-36

9330

84 April 72

Milk house at Oak Hall



9330

Industrial Park near Oak Hall (40 36)